

PRESIDENT YUAN WOULD LEAVE CHINA RATHER THAN BE KING

"Biggest Fool Is He Who Would Be Emperor," He Says—
Director of The Far Eastern Bureau Doesn't Credit
Report That Monarchy Is Contemplated

"The biggest fool in the world is he who desires to be an emperor."

President Yuan Shih-k'ai of the Chinese republic does not desire to class himself in the category of fools, according to his own "confession of faith" set forth in an interview published by the Asia Ah Pao (Asia Daily News), a conservative Chinese paper. A translation of this interview was given out by the Far Eastern bureau yesterday, says the New York Sun. Prof. Jeremiah W. Jenks, director of the bureau, represented that he was firmly convinced of Yuan Shih-k'ai's sincerity in refusing to acquiesce in the pleadings of some of his followers to make himself Emperor of China.

Prof. Jenks said the force behind the monarchical propaganda in China was believed to be a secret combination of Chinese revolutionaries in exile. There is also evidence, he believed, that "underground Japanese diplomacy" was at work to bring about the change in China, the inference being that Japan may in the event of a revolution take a hand in "establishing order."

The opinion of local Chinese is quoted by Professor Jenks as being that "the revolution of 1911 will have been nothing compared to the wholesale uprising that would follow a coup d'etat by the Chinese president."

Dr. Jenks repeated his doubts concerning the report that President Goodnow of Johns Hopkins University, who is Yuan's adviser on constitutional law, actually advised the President to declare himself Emperor, but thought that Dr. Goodnow merely suggested that the monarchical form of government was better suited for China than the republican form.

Won't Sacrifice Posterity.

A translation of Yuan's interview in the Chinese paper follows:

"The biggest fool in the world is he who desires to be an emperor. For the sake of my country I have almost sacrificed my life, and I am not willing to sacrifice the lives of my sons and grandsons, especially as the country would not profit by such sacrifice."

"At the time when the first revolution was spreading all over the country the imperial household earnestly requested me to be emperor, but I solemnly swore that I would never accept any such proposal. How absurd it is for people to say that I have now changed my mind."

"Later on, when the whole country was in a state of anarchy and the people suffered untold miseries, Empress Lung Yu again pleaded with me, time after time, that I should assume the reins of the nation so that the lives of the Empress and her son might be preserved. In order to save the country from ruin and the imperial family from threatened calamity, I, resigning myself to the possible sacrifice of my own life, assumed the heavy task of restoring order. Should I now, at this later date, carry into effect the wishes of the late Empress and become Emperor I would commit an act of deception upon the imperial widow and royal orphan, an act which could well be characterized as most outrageous and most unrighteous."

Sees No Benefit to China.

"From ancient times to the present most of the despotic Emperors ruled for several generations in succession, and their descendants were frequently exterminated when a dynasty was changed. That country which is ruled under a limited monarchy likewise has its dangers, its evils. A change of rulers is bound to affect the state in one way or another. Thus to permit myself to be made Emperor would be to sacrifice myself and my descendants without benefiting China."

Yuan elaborated on the above statement in conversation with Gen. Feng Kuo-chang (the General in command of one of the Yangtze divisions of the Chinese army) early in July, when the old soldier told the President of the rumors then in circulation in Nankin.

"I have heard this rumor," he said. "Some state that it is I who started the talk of a change in the form of government. Some cast the blame upon my elder son, Ko-ting. Needless to say that this rumor is absolutely unfounded, but it is difficult to trace it to its source."

"When I began to concentrate my efforts on the establishment of the republic I could not see clearly what effect the new form of government would finally have on the country. Considering the fact that Chinese history, environment and the qualifications of the people were different from those of America, France and other republics I naturally raised some questions of doubt as to the advisability of giving the people a republican government. In discussing this vital subject with my friends I might have dropped a word or so in regard to the monarchical government which might possibly have been misunderstood."

To Decorate Patriots.

"In the second place, the question of giving orders of nobility may be accountable for the circulation of this nefarious rumor. Outsiders think that the conferring of such orders is the first step toward the change of

the system of administration. It is true that in this republic, consisting of five races, all citizens are equal and there shall be no racial, class or religious distinctions. But it is certainly unfair to give no title of distinction to the Hans, while Mongols and Manchus and Mohammedans all may receive the ranks of baron, duke and prince. As the provisional constitution vests the President with the power to confer orders of merit I believe those Chinese who have worked for the well being of their country should receive suitable recognition in the form of ranks of nobility. I decided long ago to confer such orders, but owing to a misunderstanding in some circles I have postponed carrying that desire into effect. However, when such decorations are conferred this will be done in accordance with suitable rules. The people should not indulge in useless speculation."

"I do not think that the restoration of the monarchy would enhance either my dignity or my power for the transaction of State affairs. It may be argued that in changing the form of government I could lay plans for my sons. But it is well known that my elder son, Ko-ting, is an invalid most of the time. My second son, Ko-wen, does not aim at anything higher than being a scholar of good repute. My third son is the least fit for assuming such a responsibility. As to my other sons they are much too young to entertain any such ambitions."

"As I dare not entrust the work of a sergeant to any one of them, do you think I am going to lay upon them the heavy responsibility of governing a country?"

"I well know that from ancient times to the present descendants of a royal family often suffer unexpected calamities, although they may enjoy sitting on the throne for a short period. Why should I expose my sons and grandsons to such a catastrophe?"

Gen. Feng at this point interposed. "The people of south China are not unwilling to give their support to such a change in the form of government but as to the time of carrying out such a serious programme they are of opinion that it should be further discussed. In time to come, when you have succeeded in making a strong, united China, for which the people of the whole country will ever feel grateful to you, even if you do not wish to mount the throne, your desire to refuse will fail."

Prefers Exile to Throne.

The Chinese President frowned upon his old companion in arms, Feng and Yuan were comrades in the old Manchu days, and answered him sternly:

"From what you have just said I must conclude that you have been planning for me. My fourth and fifth sons, who are now studying in England, have been instructed by me to buy a small piece of land for the cultivation of vegetables and rice. Should it happen, as you say, that the people of China attempt to force the crown upon me, there will be but one thing to do—to go to England and spend the rest of my life there, an exile from my own land."

Mail Carriers to Meet.

Newton, Sept. 4.—The rural carriers of the Ninth Congressional District will meet at Mount Holly next Monday, which is Labor Day, and President W. C. Johnson, of Henry River, this county, is making an extra effort to get every man in the district to attend. W. C. Feinster, of the Newton bar, will deliver an address.

860 Trade Bodies in China.

Peking, Sept. 4.—China has 860 chambers of commerce, an increase of 156 within the last twelve months. The number of firms associated with these organizations had grown from 196,386 in 1914 to 230,431 this year. Membership fees this year aggregate \$1,500,000 as against \$1,023,556 in 1914.

Under the direction of the minister of commerce and agriculture the work of these commercial bodies is being harmonized, and they promise to become a vital factor in extending the campaign in China for the use of Chinese-made goods.

To Urge Conservation.

Asheville, Sept. 4.—It is more than likely that Western North Carolina will be well represented at the conference which is to be held at Washington September 21 and 22 when friends of forest conservation will discuss with the secretary of agriculture plans for the acquisition of additional timber lands in the Southern Appalachian mountains under the provisions of the Weeks act.

Weevils Invade Georgia.

Thomasville, Ga., Sept. 4.—The first boll weevil has entered Georgia, State Entomologist Worsham announced today. The weevils came from Alabama, he said. He recommended re-establishment of quarantine in the extreme southwestern counties of the State.

WILLIAM R. DAVIE

Something About a Very Great and a Very Distinguished North Carolinian

By Editor ROWLAND F. BEASLEY, in The Monroe Journal

Right after the war when the State was seething in political turmoil the late veteran editor, Dr. Kingsbury, was editing a daily paper in Raleigh. This paper was the leader in the fight at the time to restore a stable government to the people. Dr. Kingsbury was a virile writer and he kept things warm. But he was fond of literature, and it is said that it was not infrequent for the paper to come out when everybody was looking for a red hot political editorial, with the editorial page devoted to some such dry subject as the authorship of the Junius letters.

In these stirring times, when one might write editorials by the yard on war, on the world wide confusion that exists, on lynchings, on the price of cotton, or on any of the many subjects pushing so hard upon public attention, we propose, like Dr. Kingsbury, to throw all such overboard for the time being, and hark back to some of the things that are past. We propose to tell something of a very great and a very distinguished man whose grave lies within twenty-two miles of Monroe, in Lancaster county—William R. Davie.

Many an illustrious man who served the people of this State in bygone days sleeps in an unmarked grave. Not so with Davie, who, though his public career belongs to North Carolina, belongs jointly to North and South Carolina. His grave is in the old Waxhaw cemetery some miles below the Jackson birthplace, and is covered by a large horizontal slab containing an elaborate inscription, said to have been written by his friend, Governor Gaston of South Carolina. A half day trip from Monroe is sufficient to reach the old cemetery and to give time for an exploration of its interesting and historic graves.

Davie was perhaps the most illustrious citizen of this State at the close of the Revolutionary War and for the years succeeding it. Though little past his twenty-first year when he became conspicuous as a soldier, he became the most active and useful local leader of the Americans against Cornwallis' campaigns in the upper part of South Carolina and North Carolina. He was but 24 years of age when he, with a handful of men, held the whole army of Cornwallis at bay at Charlotte and caused the famous English general to denigrate that locality a "Hornet's Nest." He was the Harry Percy of the Americans, and beside being a leader of great ability, he was a most skillful swordsman, and in that day of hand to hand fighting, was said to have slain more men in personal combat in battle than any other man in the army. His personal elegance and grace were beyond description. In after years when he was a member of a special commission to the court of Napoleon a reception was tendered the embassy at the French court. It is said that at the reception the Emperor was so impressed with the bearing and manner of Davie that he addressed all his attention to him as if there had been no other members of the delegation.

The testimony to his military genius was complete. When conducting the successful operations against the British at Hanging Neck, S. C., Davie's force was piloted through a short-cut by the lad Andrew Jackson and his brother. After Jackson had accomplished his own wonderful career, he said that he had learned the art of war from William R. Davie. When General Washington was appointed to make preparation for the threatened war with France after he had retired from the presidency, he practically put the whole matter of preparation in this section in the hands of Davie. In the second war with Great Britain President Madison appointed Davie a Major General, but he felt too old to accept. General Harrison was then appointed in his stead, fought the battle in which Tecumseh was slain, and afterward became President of the United States. In the Revolutionary War and the succeeding years there was no place of trust and service to which he was not called or in which he did not assist.

William Richardson Davie was born in the north of England. When seven years of age he was brought to the Waxhaw settlement and became the adopted son of his maternal uncle, Rev. William Richardson, a minister and teacher who had already located there in the Scotch-Irish settlement. He was sent to Princeton College, where he graduated with honors. His uncle died while he was away. He began to prepare himself for the law, studying at Salisbury, but immediately became interested in the war and soon became one of its most valiant soldiers. After the war he became one of the most distinguished lawyers of the State and attended all the regular courts. He had married a niece of the celebrated Willie Jones

and settled in Halifax. At the age of thirty-one he was a leader at the bar and in public life. He was elected at that age a delegate to the convention at Philadelphia, which formed our present national Constitution. In that convention he cast the deciding vote which adopted the principle of State representation in the Senate, the rock upon which the convention was about to split. North Carolina was then one of the large States, being third in population, and naturally aligned with the States which demanded proportional representation. His act saved the day.

He was Governor of the State, founder of the University, the first soldier of the State, and for seven years the grand master of the Masonic lodge of the State. These show the wide range of his influence and activities. In 1805, at the age of 50, he forsook public life, went back to the Waxhaw locality where his boyhood had been passed, and established himself as the most hospitable and elegant gentleman of his time in this section of the country. His estate was across the river, at Landsford, from the old church where his remains lie buried. His estate was known as Tivoli, and here he died in the year 1820. It was the resort of the public men of his time, and was devoted to free hospitality. Among the other interests of this wonderful man was that of fine horses, and he paid \$5,000 for a colt, "Sir Archie," the great grandsire of Lexington, and it is said that turfmen are still disputing about the location of the birthplace and deathplace of "Sir Archie."

It is said that in his retirement his service was much sought for in the drawing of wills, and never one that he drew was assailed except his own, and the contest over that one was never settled till March, 1892, when it was finally passed upon by the Supreme Court of the United States. All of his wonderful papers, manuscripts, and documents were preserved till Sherman's raid, when they were all destroyed and the banks of the Catawba littered with them.

The above facts are gathered from a speech made by Judge Clark on the Guilford Battle Ground in 1892. Davie was at the battle of Guilford Court House, in March, 1781, when the backbone of Cornwallis was broken, being at that time quarter master of the American army. This speech can be had in full in Peele's "Distinguished North Carolinians." There is no finer automobile excursion for Monroe people than that afforded by a trip to the old Waxhaw church where Davie was buried. Down the old Cureton Store road, into the Savannah Highway, past the Jackson birthplace monument, and a mile and a half from the Savannah-Charlotte Highway, the distance is twenty-two miles. On a Sunday the people are to be found worshipping at the very spot where services were held when Andrew Jackson was a boy and attended there.

The following inscription is chiseled on the tomb of Davie:

In this grave are deposited the remains of

WILLIAM R. DAVIE,
The soldier, jurist, statesman, and patriot.

In the glorious war for American Independence
He fought among the foremost of the brave.

As an advocate at the bar,
He was diligent, sagacious, zealous,
Incorruptibly honest, of commanding eloquence.

In the legislative hall
He had no superior in enlarged vision
And profound plans of policy
Single in his ends, varied in his means, indefatigable.

In his exertions,
Representing his nation in an important embassy,
He evinced his characteristic devotion to her interests.

And manifested a peculiar fitness for diplomacy.
Polished in manners, firm in advice,
Candid without imprudence, wise above deceit.

A true lover of his country,
Always preferring the people's good to the people's favor,
Though he disdained to favor for office.

He filled most of the stations to which ambition might aspire,
And declining no public trust,
Ennobled whatever he accepted.

By the true dignity and talent
Which he brought into the discharge of his functions,
A great man in the age of great men.

In life he was admired and beloved,
By the virtuous and the wise,
In death he has silenced calumny and caused envy to mourn.

He was born in Edinburgh, 1780,
And died in South Carolina in 1820.

Italian farmhouses need improvement according to the opinion of the government, which has offered \$7,500 in premiums to be awarded for encouraging the construction of model farm buildings.